

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 OMB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-10 /089 W

----- 115624

R 220600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2830

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB AMBASSADORS BELIEVE SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO DOUBTFUL

1. ARAB AMBASSADORS IN MOGADISCIO VERY DOUBTFUL THAT ARAB LEAGUE AGAIN LAST WEEK. ARTEH LEFT MOGADISGAO APRIL 19 TO ATTEND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN CAIRO. HE WAS FOLLOWED TO EGYPT ON APRIL 20 BY SRC VICE PRES COLONEL ISMAIL ALI ABOCOR, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY DISPATCHED TO CAIRO BY SRC TO SUPPORT ARTEH'S LOBBYING EFFORTS TO BRING ARAB SUMMIT TO SOMALIA.

2. SRC WAS HASTILY CONVENED AFTER EKOTHEN REPORTS REACHED IT THAT CONTRARY TO ARTEH'S HOPEFUL PREDICTIONS THAT JUNE SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD IN MOGADISCIO, NUMBER OF ARAB COUNTRIES FIRMLY OPPOSED MOGADISCIO VENUE EVEN IF IT WERE AGREED THAT ARAB SUMMIT WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE IN MID-1975 -- AN ASSUMPTION UPON WHICH NOT RPT NOT EVERYONE FULLY AGREED. SRC VICE PRES CULMIE TOLD VISITING ARAB BANANA MERCHANT ON APRIL 15 THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT WAS AMONG THOSE MOST FIRMLY OPPOSED TO MOGADISCIO VENUE AND HAD STATED FLATLY THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT RPT NOT AGREE

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TO MEETING IN COUNTRY SO CLEARLY UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. SOURCE

OF CULMIE'S INFO REGARDING SADAT POSITION NOT RPT NOT KNOWN.
SRC SUBSEQUENTLY DISPATCHED VINE PRES ABOKOR TO HAIR JIN SUPPORO
ODU ARTEH.

3. ARIB DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN MOGADISCIO IS ALMOST UNANIMOUS IN
OPPOSITION TO ARAB SUMMIT IN SOMALIA. EVEN IRAQIS, WHO GENERALLY
SUPPORT SIAD'S INITIATIVES FULLY, BELIEVE SOMALIA HAS NOTHING TO
GAIN IF ARAB LYIEFS OF STATE COME TO MOGADISCIO IN JUNE. THEY
BELIEVE -- AS OTHER ARAB DIPLOMATS DO -- THAT MEETING OF ARAB
LEADERS HERE COULD BE HARMFUL TO GSDR, PRINCIPALLY IN CONVINCING
MANY CONSERVATIVE SKEPTICS THAT SOMALIA CLEARLY NOT RPT NOT AN ARAB
NATIZF FJT AND HAS SOME DISTANCE TO GO BEFORE IT CAN LEGITIMATELY
CLAIM THAT IT BELONGS IN ARAB FOLD. ARAB ENVOYS BELIEVE ALSO THAT
ARAB PRESS CORPS ACCOMPANYING SUMMIT WOULD REPORT UNFAVORABLY
ON SOMALIA'S BONA FIDES AS ARAB-SPEAKING ISLKAUC NATION.

4. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE ARTEH TO DROP HIS CAMPAIGN
TO BRING ARAB SUMMIT TO MOGADISCIO PRIORHEO ARTEH'S DEPARTURE ON
APRIL 19. HE POINTED OUT PRACTICAL PROBLEMS SIAD WOULD FACE IN
HOSTING SUMMIT, BEGINNING WITH HIS OPENING ADDRESS. SINCE SIAD
DOESN'T SPEAK ARABIC, WOULD HE MAKE WELCOMING ADDRESS IN QGMALI,
ENGLISH OR ITALIAN? HAD ARTEH CONYEDERED CAREFULLY REACTION OF
ARAB LEADERS, ARAB MINISTERS AND ARAB PRESS TO NON-ARABIC WELCOMING
ADDRESS BY LEADER OF SO-CALLED ARAB STATE? AND IF SIAD PRODDERED ON
ARABIC LANGUAGE ISSUE, WOULD HIS REPLY THAT SOMALI SCHOOLS NOW
DEVOTING FIVE HOURS PER WEEK TO ARABIC INSTRUCTION TRULY SATISFY
ANYONE ON LANGUAGE ISSUE? ARTEH CONCEDED THAT THERE MIGHT BE
PROBLEMS BUT ARGUED THAT THEY COULD BE WORKED OUT AT TIME.

5. CURRENT DROUGHT SITUATION IN SOMALIA IS ANOTHER REASON MANY
ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE WOULD PREFER THAT ARAB SUMMIT STAY AWAY. THEY
BELIEVE ARABS CAN DERIVE NO RPT NO REAL ADVANTAGES IN HOLDING ARAB
LEAGUE CHRISTENING IN ONE ROOM WHILE SOMALI MASSES HOLDING WAKE IN
ANOTHER. THEY ARE WORRIED THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ARAB CHIEFS
OF STATE GATHERING -- WITH ALL POMP AND CEREMONY THAT INCVLVES, TO
SAY NOTHING OF EXPENSEL-- WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT ARAB INTERESTS
WITH SOMALI PEOPLES, WITH URBAN POPULATIONS OR SOCIALIST PURITANS
WHO OPPOSE SOHDLIA'S ARAB LEAGUE CONNECTION IN ANY CASE. THEY BELIEVE
AS RESULT THAT TIMING NOT RPT NOT PROPITIOUS FOR ARAB LEAGUE
GATHERING IN MOGADISCIO.

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6. ANOTHER RESERVATION EXPRESSED BY TWO ARAB CHIEFS OF MISSION IN
MOGADISCIO CONCERNS CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT IN
MOGADISCIO. THEY RECALL THAT SRC MEMBER BOASTED TO ONE ARAB ENVOY
FOLLOWING JUNE 1974 OAU SUMMIT THAT GSDR WAS PRIVY TO EVERY
CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE AND STRATEGY SESSION HELD IN MOGADISCIO HOTEL
AND CONFERENCE ROOMS DURING OAU SUMMIT. ONE ARAB AMBASSADOR THINKS
HE SAW FOREIGN COMMUNICAMQIONS ADVISOR TO GSDR -- BELIEVED TO BE

SOVIET OR EAST GERMAN -- INSTALLING SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC
EAVESDROPPING AT JUBA HOTEL WEEK PRIOR TO OAU SUMMIT OPETING. ARAB
PRIDE -- MUCH NURE THAN CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEETING -- APPEARS TO BE
PRINCIPAL REASON WHY
THEY OBJECT TO MEETING IN CAPITAL WHERE SOVIETS
HAVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO HOST GOVERNMENT.

7. FOR ABOVE REASONS, TQST ARAB ENVOYS HERE SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT
JUNE SUMMIT -- IF IT IS HELD AT ALL -- WILL BE HELD IN MOGADISCIO.
THEY DON'T THINK SIAD WILL LIKE IT, BUT THEY DO BELIEVE NEGATIVE
DECISION WOULD BE IN HIS IUITERESTS AS WELL.
HAMRICK

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